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Serial No. 09/783,158

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Applicant: Michael Dewayne Finkc et al.

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Group Art Unit: 2635

Serial No.: 09/783,158

Examiner: Timothy Edwards, Jr.

Filed: February 14, 2001

Confirmation No.: 2071

For: DOWNLINK TELEMETRY SYSTEM

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Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

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Jean Brown

STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW CONDUCTED OCTOBER 4, 2004

Applicants acknowledge receipt of the *Notice of Allowability* and the *Interview Summary* dated October 18, 2004. In response, Applicant submits this Statement of the Substance of an Interview conducted October 4, 2004.

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the interview conducted October 4, 2004 between Examiner Timothy Edwards, Jr. and the attorney for Applicants, Shannon Bates of Conley Rose, P.C.

The Examiner requested the interview in an effort to put the present application into condition for allowance. The Examiner cited portions of U.S. Patent No. 6,513,606 to *Krueger* in relation to claim 74 and claim 76. Specifically, the Examiner pointed out that *Krueger* teaches a remote controller that communicates with a downhole controller 230 in the drilling assembly.

In response, Applicants noted that *Krueger* teaches a surface controller 340 or a remote controller that communicates *directly* with a downhole controller 230 in the drilling assembly. In contrast, claim 74 and claim 76 each recite transmission of computer commands, either locally or from a remote location, to *generate downlink signals* to control a directional drilling operation or to automatically drill a well borehole. Therefore, to further distinguish over *Krueger*, Applicants proposed amending claim 74 and claim 76 to recite a surface transmitter that receives the computer commands and generates downlink signals. The Examiner indicated that such an amendment would likely place claim 74 and claim 76 into condition for allowance.

Thereafter, Applicants submitted specific proposals to amend claim 74 and claim 76, which were approved by the Examiner, and entered into the record by Examiner's Amendment.

Date: November 10, 2004

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